

U.S. Serial No. 10/761,552 (Attorney Dkt: HALB:020D1)
Art Unit: 1712

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. -22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising the steps of obtaining or preparing the drilling fluid of claim 1 a drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein the invert emulsion has a base or continuous phase comprising a blend of linear alpha olefins and paraffin hydrocarbons, and circulating same the drilling fluid in said the wellbore during said drilling.

24. (Currently amended) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising the steps of obtaining or preparing the drilling fluid of claim 8 a drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein the invert emulsion has a base or continuous phase comprising isomerized olefins and paraffin hydrocarbons, and circulating same the drilling fluid in said the wellbore during said drilling.

25. (Currently amended) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising the steps of obtaining or preparing the drilling fluid of claim 16 a drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein said invert emulsion has a base or continuous phase comprising a blend of naphthenic hydrocarbons and other paraffin hydrocarbons, and circulating same the drilling fluid in said the wellbore during said drilling.

26. (Currently amended) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising obtaining or preparing the drilling fluid of claim 22 a drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein the invert emulsion has a base or continuous phase comprising isomerized olefins and other hydrocarbons, and circulating same the drilling fluid in said the wellbore during said drilling.

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27. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the paraffin hydrocarbons are selected from the group consisting of linear paraffins, branched paraffins, poly-branched paraffins, cyclic paraffins, isoparaffins, and mixtures thereof.
28. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the paraffin hydrocarbons have about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.
29. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein said paraffin hydrocarbons comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of the blend.
30. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the paraffin hydrocarbons comprise less than about 50 weight percent of the blend.
31. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the linear alpha olefins comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of the drilling fluid.
32. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the linear alpha olefins comprise about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.
33. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the paraffin hydrocarbons are selected from the group consisting of linear paraffins, branched paraffins, poly-branched paraffins, cyclic paraffins, isoparaffins, or mixtures thereof.
34. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the paraffin hydrocarbons have about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.
35. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the paraffin hydrocarbons comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of the blend.
36. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the isomerized olefins comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of the drilling fluid.

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37. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the isomerized olefins have about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.
38. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the isomerized olefins are selected from the group consisting of internal olefins, cyclic olefins, and mixtures thereof.
39. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein the internal olefins may be straight chain or branched chain.
40. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the paraffin hydrocarbons are selected from the group consisting of linear paraffins, branched paraffins, poly-branched paraffins, isoparaffins, and mixtures thereof.
41. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the paraffin hydrocarbons have about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.
42. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the paraffin hydrocarbons comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of the blend.
43. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the napthenic hydrocarbons comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of the drilling fluid.
44. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the napthenic hydrocarbons comprise a saturated, cycloparaffinic material having a chemical formula:
- $$\text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n}$$
- wherein n is about 5 to about 30.